

# Aboriginal Sport and Recreation New Brunswick



**ASR**  
NEW BRUNSWICK

2023 Annual Report





## About Us

### Who We Are

Aboriginal Sport and Recreation New Brunswick (ASRNB) is committed to guide, mobilize, and promote a healthy, active lifestyle through developing sport and recreation opportunities for the Indigenous population in New Brunswick, with a focus on youth. We are committed to teach leadership, support for others, and achieve a better lifestyle using the ability of sport and recreation.

### Vision

We at ASRNB believe that physical activity is a healthy and positive tool to build strong and sustainable communities and vibrant community members. We are committed to have all ASRNB programs and services promote indigenous health and wellness by intertwining the cultural benefits of all our programs and services.

### Priorities

ASRNB strives to be the liaison between existing partners in sport and recreation throughout New Brunswick directly to our indigenous communities. We will work together to provide improved programs and opportunities for our Indigenous population to participate in sport. We are also committed to work with our Provincial Sport Organizations together with Coach NB to provide continues educational opportunities for our youth, coaches, and officials.



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## Message from our Executive Director

This past year our communities and neighbours across Turtle Island have shown incredible redemption and comeback into Sport. Despite the challenges COVID introduced, we are ecstatic to announce that we have continued to make huge strides in the growth of ASRNB. The growth of ASRNB was imperative to our goal of this year, NAIG 2023 in Halifax, NS.

This continued growth has improved our services to both Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqey communities that is imperative to the health and betterment of the youth. Our staff's main priority is understanding the youth participating in our activities, sports and events are the next generation of athletes and leaders in our communities.

To the athletes in our Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqey territories, you have not only taken advantage of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to represent Team New Brunswick at the 2023 North American Indigenous Games, but you have made us all proud in doing so.

Team New Brunswick boasted a highly successful NAIG, earning 17 coveted medals in one of its better showings during the competition. Of those 17 medals, 4 represent Gold, 5 Silver and 8 Bronze. We are extremely proud of each and every individual athlete who conquered and showed an immense amount of determination to step out of their comfort zone and compete against the best indigenous athletes across Turtle Island.

We would like to acknowledge all of our participants and most importantly our ASRNB partners, communities, community managers and community leaders for your support and contribution. Furthermore, ASRNB looks forward harnessing the power of sport within our youth with many activities, events and programs planned for 2024.

Welalin – Woliwon – Thank you – Merci,  
Cathy Ward



## Our Staff



**Cherie Campbell**  
Program Director



**Hannah Somers**  
Program Coordinator



**Lillian Ward**  
Program Coordinator



**Taylor Ward**  
Program Support  
Communications Coordinator



**Adam Matchett**  
Program Support Staff



**Breanne Ward**  
Student



**Mia Hutchison-Levy**  
Student



## Programs and Services

### Programs

#### **Female Empowerment Summit**

Every year, Aboriginal Sport and Recreation New Brunswick organizes a Female Empowerment Summit aimed at empowering the 2SLGBTQIA+ and Female youth of our New Brunswick Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqey communities. The summit emphasizes physical, mental, and emotional well-being and stresses the importance of positive and healthy relationships among the youth of our future.

#### **Lady Ice Warriors**

Our Lady Ice Warriors Winter programming features a Female Hockey Development camp. The main objective is to provide a safe and comfortable space for girls of all skill levels to learn new skills and build new friendships with others. It's a great opportunity for girls to feel confident on the ice and not feel out of place.

#### **Paddle Board Warriors**

Paddle Board Warriors offers an excellent opportunity for our youth to immerse themselves within our ancestral and historic rivers of New Brunswick. This program teaches the basics and foundational skills of paddle boarding and the physics involved in navigating rivers and streams.

#### **PaddlesUp**

Our goal is to provide a memorable learning opportunity and adventure such as paddling by canoe or kayak and enjoying the bountiful gifts of our rivers. Learning a new skill set and celebrating traditional ceremonies, singing and dancing while honouring our ancestors, the introduction of culture into sport being a focus. To have our elders bless our boats and share songs through the drumming circle between paddles on the river is an amazing experience for all who participate.



## Services

### **New Brunswick Indigenous Summer Games**

The Indigenous Summer Games (ISG) is the most participated and anticipated event for all New Brunswick Indigenous athletes. The ISG is the steppingstone for most athletes to move forward to the Atlantic Indigenous Games, North American Indigenous Games and the Canada Games. ASRNB is the governing body of ISG and we collaborate with the host community and with various provincial sport organizations to create a memorable event, while producing athletes in a fun and cultural environment.

### **Team New Brunswick**

The Aboriginal Sport and Recreation New Brunswick (ASRNB) is dedicated to guiding, mobilizing, and promoting a healthy and active lifestyle by creating opportunities for indigenous communities in New Brunswick, with a focus on youth. Our aim is to cultivate leadership, support for others, and achieve a better lifestyle through sports and recreation. ASRNB regularly assists in the organization and supports the Atlantic Indigenous Games, National Aboriginal Hockey Championship, and North American Indigenous Games, which are vital components of our efforts to develop and empower Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqey athletes in New Brunswick.

### **Indigenous Athlete Fund**

The Indigenous Athlete Fund will assist indigenous athletes overcome financial barriers which prevent or limit their participation in organized sport and recreation programs that are currently not available within their communities. This program is intended to help indigenous youth access organized sport programs.

### **Neil Linklater ASRNB Integrity Scholarship**

The Neil Linklater ASRNB Integrity Scholarship was established in 2021 by Aboriginal Sport and Recreation New Brunswick (ASRNB). Neil Linklater, who was of Mi'kmaq and Cree descent, was a former student of Miramichi Valley High School. He was passionate about experiencing life to the fullest and engaging in various sports such as rugby, basketball, soccer, volleyball, track and field, hockey, and softball. He was also actively involved in extra-curricular activities that allowed him to help others, make new friends, and spend time with his existing friends.

Neil was a person of integrity who always upheld strong values. He demonstrated his integrity by placing the needs of others before his own and respecting people of all ages. He never sought recognition for doing the right thing. This is the beauty of someone who lives a life of integrity. This scholarship is available annually to a graduating Indigenous student from across New Brunswick.



## Year in Review: Female Empowerment Summit

Aboriginal Sport and Recreation New Brunswick (ASRNB), hosted in February 2023 a Female Empowerment Summit with the objective of empowering our female youth from First Nation communities across New Brunswick.

Shawl Dancing lead by Abygail Dedam, practicing Mindfulness with Maliamsi Counselling lead by Maxine Ginnish, Snowshoeing with First Nations Tourism and nutritional guidance by NMC Nutrition, Natasha McLaughlin-Chaisson, were some of the the many presentations and activities meant to culturally guide and empower our youth.

ASRNB would like to thank Victoria Augustine for her beautiful teachings, singing and ceremonial practices during our summit.

Thank you to Metepenagiag First Responders for being on-site and making sure all participants had the highest form of safety during their tenure.

This event would not be possible without Metepenagiag Outdoor Lodge, Metepenagiag Heritage Park and Sport Canada.





## Year in Review: Lady Ice Warriors Hockey Camp

ASRNB hosted two day all-female hockey camp in April 2023, the Lady Ice Warriors at the Willie O'Ree Sports Complex in Fredericton, NB.

Day one of the camp featured U13, U15 and U18 girls from our communities all over New Brunswick, receiving the opportunity to learn the importance of fuelling and hydrating your body with NMC Nutrition, best yoga practices and on-ice training.

Day two featured U7, U9 and U11 age groups experiencing the same practices, including on-ice and off-ice drills and a great presentation from NMC Nutrition.

Thank you to our communities for taking advantage of these camps as developing future athletes is a goal of ASRNB.



## Year in Review: National Aboriginal Hockey Championships (NAHC)

Winnipeg Manitoba hosted the 2023 NAHC tournament. Team Atlantic was fortunate to be represented by U18 Male and U18 Female hockey teams respectively. As part of Team Atlantic, we proudly add six females from Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqey communities represent from New Brunswick along with two males. Team Atlantic U18 Female squad finished out the tournament placing 7th, while Team Atlantic U18 Male squad finished 6th.

### Athletes from New Brunswick who represented Team Atlantic were:

Females:

Danie Madore

Nora Harquail

Georgia Labillois

Pehsesem Brown-Bear

Kikpesan Ward

Molly Francis

Males:

Samuel Caouette

Ty Ward

### New Brunswick Coaches:

Hannah Somers

Aiyana Augustine





## North American Indigenous Games (NAIG)

Team New Brunswick is a contingent comprised of indigenous athletes from unseeded and unsundered territory of the Mi'kmaq, Wolastoqey and Passamaquoddy First Nations of Canada. The North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) hosted 5,000 Indigenous participants within 756 Indigenous Nations, competing in sixteen sports.

NAIG is not just a sporting event, it is cultural celebration. Thousands of Indigenous youth, along with their families, coaches and friends, traveled across Turtle Island to unite for something bigger than sport - a celebration of the immense importance of Indigenous youth taking up space in sport that also shines light on the support rallied behind these young athletes. NAIG is truly the pinnacle of excellence in Indigenous youth sports across the continent. Sport provides hope, it provides a future for anyone. It builds character and builds leadership skills. NAIG is a life-changing event that encourages everyone to step outside their comfort zone. These Games give the youth so many different areas of opportunities to feel that sense of belonging in the realm of sport. Team NB was resilient, determined and showed great passion. They came away as champions.

Team New Brunswick is proud to announce the athletes, coaches, mission staff and chaperones who compassionately delegated to unite and create an experience of a lifetime for our athletes. Bringing home 4 Gold Medals in 16U Male Athletics Triple Jump, Male Wrestling, 19U Male Beach Volleyball and 19U Male 3D Archery. 5 Silver Medals in 16U Male Athletics Triple Jump, 16U and 19U Male Swimming and 8 Bronze Medals in 14U Female Swimming, 16U Male Swimming and 19U Male Swimming. A total of 17 medals. Team NB will hold them up high, awaiting to compete again in the 2027 North American Indigenous Games held next in Calgary.



# Team New Brunswick Medal Count

## Gold



**Cody Chiasson**

3D Archery Compound 19U  
Male



**Jacoby Francis**

Athletics Triple Jump 16U  
Male



**Ala'suinu Madahbee Barnaby**

**Odin Sanipass**

Beach Volleyball 19U Male



**Ethan Chase**

Wrestling 52 KG/114.6 lbs  
Male



## Silver



**Breilan Levi Labobe**

Athletics Triple Jump 16U  
Male



**Mark Addison**

Swimming 50m Freestyle  
16U Male



**Jack Addison**

Swimming 50m Backstroke  
19U Male



**Mark Addison**

Swimming 1500m Freestyle  
16U Male



**Jack Addison**

Swimming 1500m Freestyle  
19U Male



## Bronze



**Samuel Simon**

Athletics Long Jump 16U  
Male



**Mark Addison**

Swimming 200m Freestyle  
16U Male



**Jack Addison**

Swimming 200m Freestyle  
19U Male



**Mark Addison**

Swimming 100m Freestyle  
16U Male



**Jack Addison**

Swimming 400m Freestyle  
19U Male



**Harmony Isaac - Gedeon**

Swimming 200m Freestyle  
16U Female



**Kaylee Dugas**

Swimming 50m Breaststroke  
14U Female



**Erika Metallic**

Swimming 200m Butterfly  
14U Female



**Total Medals: 17**





## Sport New Brunswick Nick Lawrence Spirit of the Sport Award

ASRNB is proud to announce that NAIG Team NB 2023 has been selected as the winner for this year's Sport New Brunswick Nick Lawrence Spirit of the Sport Award.

With the cancellation of the 2020 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) there was some uncertainty going into NAIG 2023.

The mental health of our athletes leaving their communities to go to an international event to return to sport was certainly a challenge. As a province, we surpassed all expectations and goals. Team NB athletes had a sense of belonging and showed they can compete amongst the best, bringing home 17 medals – which marks the most medals Team NB has brought home.

As we honor our cultural backgrounds from all over NB demonstrating enthusiasm, good sportsmanship, treating others with respect and creating an inclusive and supportive environment.

With these positive qualities, we believe that the future is bright for Team New Brunswick NAIG 2027. We are honoured to receive this award and cannot wait to see what the future holds for our Team NB athletes.





# Paddle Boarding

Aboriginal Sport and Recreation New Brunswick

## Year in Review: Paddle Board Warriors

2023 has been an incredibly busy year. Even though our focus on Sport has been directed to NAIG 2023, this has not eliminated our work within our communities such as bringing our youth on the water.

In July, we had the pleasure of having Girls on Boards - Miramichi come and do a Paddle Boarding training course with our First Nation youth. This gave our youth hands on training on the water focusing on paddle boarding basics and water safety.

We look forward to offering further paddle boarding courses within the 2024 season.







## PaddlesUp

ASRNB is pleased to have continued our PaddlesUp program this year. Despite having an incredible summer with the North American Indigenous Games, we were determined to deliver our program to Wolastoqey territory. We couldn't have asked for a better day and the time spent with our indigenous athletes is priceless.

As water people, it is necessary we live up to our indigenous culture. The need to learn basic paddling and motoring skills on effectively operating a canoe, while harnessing team building and capacity within our communities is just the many reasons we continue to offer this outstanding program to all Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqey communities in New Brunswick.

We look forward to continuing PaddlesUp in the upcoming 2024 season.

**Tentative Event Planner**

**Winter 2024 Events**

**Female Empowerment Summit  
National Aboriginal Hockey Championships (NAHC) - Tryouts**

**Spring 2024 Events**

**North American Indigenous Games 2027 - Team New Brunswick Kick Off  
Female Ice Warriors Hockey Camp  
National Aboriginal Hockey Championships - Tournament**

**Summer 2024 Events**

**Beach Volleyball Camps  
Paddle Board Warriors  
PaddlesUp  
New Brunswick Indigenous Summer Games**

**Autumn 2024 Events**

**Female Empowerment Summit  
Basketball Camp  
Autism Swimming Program**



